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system comprising iridium and a halogen-containing promoter, and carbon monoxide, wherein said catalyst system also comprises platinum.

2. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 which is a process for the carbonylation of methanol wherein a carbon monoxide partial pressure of between  $0.1 \cdot 10^5$  Pa and  $200 \cdot 10^5$  Pa is maintained throughout the process.

3. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 which is a process for the isomerization of methyl formate wherein a carbon monoxide partial pressure of between  $0.1 \cdot 10^5$  Pa and  $25 \cdot 10^5$  Pa is maintained throughout the process.

4. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 which comprises a simultaneous methanol carbonylation reaction and a methyl formate isomerization reaction, wherein said process is carried out under a carbon monoxide partial pressure of between  $0.1 \cdot 10^5$  Pa and  $25 \cdot 10^5$  Pa throughout the process.

5. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the platinum is introduced into said catalyst system in the form of metallic platinum, a platinum salt or an oxide.

6. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the platinum is introduced into the catalyst system in the form of a coordination complex.

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9. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein a platinum content of at least 1 mmol/l of reaction medium and an atomic ratio of iridium to platinum of between 1 and 5 are maintained.

10. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said catalyst system also contains rhodium.

11. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein rhodium and iridium are maintained in an atomic ratio of rhodium to iridium of between 0.01 and 99.

12. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the platinum is introduced into the catalyst system in the form of metallic platinum, a platinum salt or a platinum oxide, and a platinum content of at least 4 mmol/l of reaction medium and an atomic ratio of (iridium + rhodium) to platinum of between 2 and 5 are maintained.

13. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the platinum is introduced in the form of a coordination complex, and a platinum content of at least 1 mmol/l of reaction medium and an atomic ratio of (iridium + rhodium) to platinum of between 1 and 5 are maintained.

14. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein a concentration of iridium in the reaction medium of between 0.1 and 100 mmol/l is maintained.

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15. (Amended) The process as claimed in ~~claim~~ claim 1 which is carried out in the presence of a water content less than or equal to 14% by weight of the reaction medium.

16. (Amended) The process as claimed in ~~claim~~ claim 15 wherein only the carbonylation of methanol is carried out and the reaction medium contains water in an amount of between 2 and 8% by weight.

17. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 15 which comprises a methyl formate isomerization reaction and optionally, a simultaneous methanol carbonylation reaction and the reaction medium contains water in an amount of less than 5% by weight.

18. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said halogen-containing promoter comprises an elemental halogen or a halogen in a compound with hydrogen or a methyl or acetyl radical.

20. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 which is carried out in the presence of a halogen-containing promoter in an amount of less than or equal to 20% by weight of the reaction medium.

21. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 which is carried out in the presence of an ester in an amount of less than 40% by weight of the reaction medium.

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22. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein iodides are introduced into the reaction medium in an amount sufficient to maintain an atomic ratio of soluble iodides introduced into the reaction medium to iridium of less than 10.

23. (Amended) The process as claimed in any claim 1 which is carried out continuously

--24. (New) The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the coordination complex is a coordination complex of platinum with at least one ligand selected from the group consisting of carbon monoxide, a carbon monoxide/halogen combination, organonitrogen compounds and organophosphorus compounds.

25. (New) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein a concentration of iridium and rhodium in the reaction medium of between 0.1 and 100 mmol/l is maintained.

26. (New) The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein a concentration of iridium in the reaction medium of between 1 and 20 mmol/l, is maintained.

27. (New) The process as claimed in claim 15 which is carried out in the presence of a water content less than or equal to 10% by weight of the reaction medium.

FOOTNOTES